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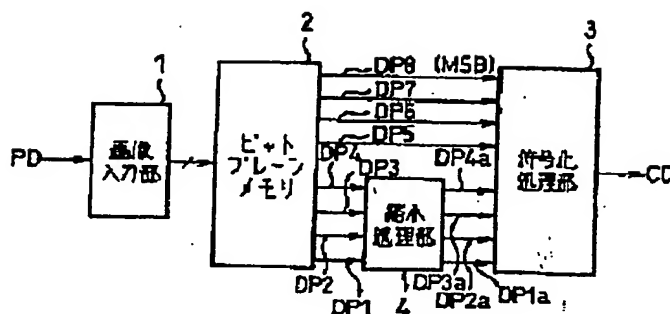
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TITLE : ENCODING METHOD AND ENCODING  
DEVICE, AND DECODING DEVICE  
FOR MULTI-VALUED IMAGE DATA



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To greatly reduce the amount of multivalued code data and to improve the encoding efficiency by encoding and compressing image data of a bit plane of bits below a specific bit position by a specific image encoding system after reducing the data, and thus generating code data.

SOLUTION: A reduction processing part 4 reduces image data of a 4th bit plane data DP4, 3rd bit plane data DP3, 2nd bit plane data DP2, and 1st bit plane data DP1 in bit plane units at a specific rate (e.g. '0.5'). The 4th bit plane data DP4a, and 3rd, 2nd, and 1st bit plane data DP3a, DP2a, and DP1a after the reduction are applied to an encoding process part 3 respectively. Thus, an original image is reduced as to, for example, low-order four bits of 8-bit original image data and the bit plane encoding is performed as to the image data of the reduced image.

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